

IOWA COMMUNITY BETTERMENT

2001 Yearbook



The following pages contain a brief description of the 49 projects nominated for 2001 ICB awards. The groups completing these projects collectively raised more than \$10 million in cash, grants, equipment, land and buildings. The projects benefit a combined population of more than 350,000. Volunteers involved in the projects gave more than 150,000 hours of service (valued at approximately \$2.4 million) to their communities.

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Iowa Community Betterment is a program of the
Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service,
in partnership with
the Iowa Department of Economic Development's
Community Development Division

www.community.state.ia.us



www.volunteeriowa.org

ARCADIA

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Fire Safety Equipment Fundraiser

Our project began in the fall of 2000, after residents became aware that our volunteer firemen were in need of fire protective clothing and equipment. We decided to conduct a fundraiser. We held a ticket raffle & bingo night to raise the money. Businesses were contacted for doorprizes, and donations of money.

On September 11, 2001 we ordered fire protective clothing and air packs. This equipment will allow them to provide protection for the community, as well as the volunteers themselves when responding to fire and 911 calls.

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BUTLER COUNTY

Second Place Award winner!

Entry Category: County/Coalition

Butler County Sustainable Environmental Education Directive (SEED)

SEED encompasses waste management, environmental education, and buying recycled products while promoting sustainability. A brainstorming session was held with representatives from Butler County, Butler County Solid Waste and ISU Extension. Butler County wanted to beautify the County Courtyard, ISU extension wanted to provide a public service opportunity for 4-H groups, and Butler County Solid Waste wanted a visible demonstration of buying recycled and organic recycling through the use of recycled material, compost recycled tire border mulch, recycled tire stepping stones and wood mulch. Each entity decided to pool their resources to reach a shared goal.

Iowa State's University's Horticultural Dept. drew up plans to beautify the County Courthouse courtyard, which included 60 varieties of plants. They were then planted in designated, compost-amended soils on the north side of the courthouse. Plants were treated with an organic mulch to reduce maintenance. SEED has used green design methods including the placement of benches manufactured from recycled plastic and using border mulch and stepping stones manufactured from recycled tires.

SEED promotes environmental stewardship, conservation management and sustainable agriculture through community involvement and continuing educational initiatives. Several benefactors and volunteers have committed their support and their labor to the continuation of this project.

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CAMBRIA

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

2001 Cambria Celebration

The town park was given a quick makeover. All the playground equipment, park benches, food stands and tables were painted red, white and blue. The BBQ shelter house was painted and decorated with stars representing those who lost their lives on 9/11.

A butterfly garden was planted as a symbol of nature's renewal. Flower beds had been planted earlier in the year. We purchased potted white mums with flags to decorate the shelter house and the stage of the school. Most of the town's residents decorated their houses and yards with red, white and blue and flew the flag from poles and porches. We were privileged to use two WW II casket flags, donated by families, to fly over the street entering town and on the school flagpole for the day.

The school gym was decorated with lots of flags and white lights along with white mums. Carson Haring, local sign painter, created all our signs and banners for the day. Drawing prizes were purchased or donated, most with a patriotic theme or color.

We started the day with breakfast followed by a flag raising ceremony and the National Anthem. Games of many kinds were played. There was even a two-mile fun walk in which all of the participants received a painted T-shirt. A float was decorated for the veterans to ride in during the parade. There was even an afternoon talent show, a dog show, and poem reading.

Volunteers prepared a barbecue supper at the school. Winners of the raffle prizes were drawn. There was country music with dancing in the gym to finish the day.

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CARROLL

First Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Keep Iowa Beautiful 5001 and over

Carroll's Beautification

There are several components of Carroll's Beautification. Several groups recognized the need to join forces to make Carroll an enticing place for people to live, visit and do business.

New Christmas decorations had not been purchased for several years and we lacked a unified Christmas theme. The Chamber voted to pay for wreaths with proceeds from our Taste of Home Cooking School. Thirty-nine wreaths and 206 lights were placed along five streets of the central business district and 25 wreaths and lights were placed along Hwy 30 and 5th Avenue.

A Trees Forever committee organized the planting of nearly 1,000 trees along two of Carroll's entrances. A goal of planting additional trees on Hwy 71 has been set to be accomplished over the next three to five years.

Almost 4,700 feet of new white rooftop lights were placed in the central business district thanks to the efforts of downtown businesses, Carroll firemen, landlords, local electricians, chamber board members, commerce staff and outlying businesses.

Thirty hanging flower baskets were hung in the business district to beautify the area during the summer months. A new sign featuring Carroll's logo was placed at the junction of Hwys 71 and 30 to welcome visitors to one of the largest towns in West Central Iowa. Prior to the State Baseball Tournament in July, members of the Chamber of Commerce staff pulled weeds, mowed overgrown grass and picked up garbage in several empty lots and medians.

Residents of all facets were involved in our project and take great pride in their community. As the projects we have undertaken will grow and prosper, so will the ideas for new projects to benefit our community.

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CARROLLTON

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Carrollton History Preservation & Restoration

This project began as a challenge to all communities in Carroll County to honor Carrollton with a marker and other remembrances.

The Carrollton Cemetery project includes four phases; landscaping, signs, directory and map, and a cemetery book and Walking Tour. Ag instructors and FFA members have volunteered their expertise in designing an attractive entrance leading into the cemetery. Four new signs have been installed directing visitors to the cemetery.

The Carroll County Genealogical Society has agreed to assist with research and the study of family histories to help develop a cemetery directory and map. A walking cemetery tour and performance will highlight the history of people buried there in conjunction with the Carroll Chamber Tour and the annual "Old Settlers Picnic" in September 2002.

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CEDAR FALLS*Honorable Mention Project!*

Entry Category: Community 5001 and over

Gardens to Main Street, A Public Art Exhibition

This exhibit consists of 19 unique works sculpted by 12 artists throughout the U.S. Nine of the pieces are nestled among the gardens of the Hearst Center for the Arts; approximately twenty blocks away, another 9 pieces are strategically placed along the graceful curves of our unique downtown streetscape and one piece is proudly perched outside the office of the Cedar Falls Hall building.

Cedar Falls has always embraced the arts (even as far back as 1910) and is listed among travel writer John Villani's 100 Best Small Art Towns in America.

This is truly a community project as members of the committee overseeing the project are employees of the City of Cedar Falls and Community Main Street organization, UNI professors and students, Hearst Center for the Arts staff, Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau staff, downtown merchants, and community volunteers at large.

Contact:

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CHARLES CITY*Second Place Award winner! Received Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Award.*

Entry Category: Keep Iowa Beautiful 5001 and over

Adopt-A-Lot

The Adopt-A-Lot program is intended to help keep Charles City's downtown parking lots clean throughout the summer. Each of sixteen different volunteer groups has an assigned lot that they have agreed to clean once a month for six straight months on designated dates. The Charles City Press sends out a reminder each month.

It is impossible for the street department's sweeper to get all of the sand and garbage that collects in the corners and this is our way of assisting the City's crew to keep the lots looking their best. Once a month the street sweeper will come into each lot and pick up the sweepings. A schedule has been established to coordinate the City sweeper and the lot sponsor.

This project will enhance our tourism opportunities by providing a clean and inviting environment downtown. It will also instill a sense of pride into each and every group that volunteers and can visibly see their accomplishments.

Contact:

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CHARLES CITY-YOUTH

Entry Category: Youth 5001 and over

Teen Serve

Teenagers have the opportunity to volunteer their time and talents in the community over a two-week period. Middle school participated one week and senior high the other. Group leaders volunteer their time and talents to guide the teens through the work-site projects. The daily routine is to wake up at 6:00 a.m. on Monday morning; eat breakfast and then embark on their project for the day. They take a break once in the morning, enjoy lunch prepared by staff, and break again once in the afternoon. The work day ends at around 4:30 or 5:00 p.m.

Upon returning to the middle school they cleanup for the nightly activities. Entertainment was provided each and every night, sometimes local and others from as far away as Nashville, TN. There is a very structured environment. This routine is followed Monday through Friday. A total of 74 projects were completed in the Charles City community. The residents were all very thoughtful and appreciative.

Contact:

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CLIO

First Place Award winner! Also selected as Overall Grand Prize winner!

Received Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Award.

Entry Category: Youth 0 to 1000

Clio Park Improvements

With the help of the Corydon American Legion, we ordered a new 25" aluminum flag pole. Meanwhile we took the old pole down. We graveled in approximately 15' for parking by the park, and with donated parking borders, we outlined the parking area - preventing driving up into the park area.

We relocated, dug, and raised the flag on July 8, 2001, with the help of many people. It was awesome! We began repainting our gazebo, swingset, slide, teeter-totter, and tether ball pole - adding a lot of colorful touches. The climbing tower received a fresh coat of water sealant and a new children's slide was added, with gravel around the base of the play area. The old swings were replaced, a new tether ball was placed on the original pole. The old basketball goal was completely taken down, and a new backboard and hoop added. New vinyl fencing was added to two corner areas for flowers and bushes. We planted bushes by the restrooms. We added gravel to meet the community meeting building to prevent falls due to the cement step-up that was easily missed.

We revitalized our park with the proud new flagpole as a centerpiece. A flag, sent by Senator Charles Grassley, and an Iowa flag donated by the Corydon American Legion was presented to our town at the Clio Festival, August 4, 2001 in an official flagraising ceremony and 21-gun salute, performed by the Lineville American Legion, and Corydon American Legion.

Contact:

Stephany Robinson
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CORYDON

Entry Category: Community 1001 to 5000

Long-range Community Plan

The City Council received a grant to extend the present trail and we decided that we would assist with the planting of trees, shrubs and wildflowers along the edges of the trail. Corydon City Council was informed that we were prepared to provide up to \$1,000 when the time for planting arrived. Because of some difficulty in obtaining easement of the land, development of the trail is delayed, so planting will wait until Spring of 2002.

In the meantime, members of the Chamber are discussing the need for new trash containers around the square. Current containers tipped over due to strong winds. A heavy stone container was approved and the purchase of three containers was approved. Business people on the square purchased nine more and they were placed in front of each of their businesses.

Contact:

Ronnie Doty
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ESSEX

Honorable Mention Project!

Entry Category: Community 1001 to 5000

Lied Public Library

The goal of having a new library building began in 1998 and became a reality on October 13, 2001! In response to obvious community need, the Lied Public Library was initiated by the Essex Public Library Board of Trustees and funded through a major grant received from the Lied Foundation Trust located in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The 5,000 square foot structure features plenty of room to accommodate today's needs, allows for growth in the future and meets Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. It is equipped with the latest computer technology, data automation and high-speed Internet access.

The new Lied Public Library affords the public an avenue to better their lives through reading and computer access.

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FARNHAMVILLE

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Convenience Store/Restaurant

In 1998, the grocery store in Farnhamville was closed, yet the need for a grocery store still existed.

Convenience store chains were approached, but were not interested due to the debt on the existing building, no gas pumps, and it was not located on the highway. The Betterment Club was approached to see if we would be interested in purchasing the building for \$25,000. In July, the club began to raise the money to buy it. Volunteers went door-to-door asking for donations. Many individuals from outside the city were also approached. By August, having raised \$30,000, the Betterment Club was the new owner. The building was leased to Ruth DeWitt for a \$1 a year and now houses a restaurant, lounge, and convenience store. Now citizens have the opportunity to purchase staple items without leaving town, people working in town have somewhere to eat, and residents can visit with each other. Excess shelving and coolers were auctioned and the club received a \$13,500 no interest loan to help with the renovation of the building. Volunteers remodeled, painted, updated the plumbing and wiring, and installed new restrooms and partitions.

The Trading Post is now open for business!

Contact:

Frank and Norma Morgan
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FORT DODGE

Entry Category: Neighborhood

Westside Neighborhood Betterment Sign

The Westside Neighborhood Betterment welcome sign is located at the corner of "A" Street and Avenue "B" at the NW corner of Karl King Bridge in Fort Dodge. It is 4' X 8' and is made of wood with a graphic of a basic sunset looking west. It has "Westside, Fort Dodge" inscribed on it and is finished with weatherproof finish.

Several people decided that we need a flagpole behind the sign to make it complete, so a resident of Fort Dodge, donated a flagpole and several others helped install it. Another resident donated money for the flag. We believe that it is a nice attraction to our area.

In the future, we plan to plant bushes, shrubs, flowers, and perennials to beautify the area.

Contact:

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GRAFTON

Third Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Grafton Community Center

Our project initially started as an attempt to save our school building from demolition. It blossomed into creating a community building which would include an athletic center, an all-purpose community room, a gym, kitchen & dining room area, serving center, restrooms, cloakroom, air conditioning, plus a 1,260 square foot alternative school classroom with a

handicapped accessible restroom. New sidewalks were installed along with a rock parking area to the north and a blacktopped parking to the south.

Cost of the total building remodeling to date is approximately \$175,000 and is being funded with donations, city funds, insurance money (water damage during ice storm), grants and facility rental fees.

The community is pleased and proud of the center.

Contact:

Carol Koschmeder

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GREENE

Third Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Community 1001 to 5000

Fundraising for the Swimming Pool

Our pool renovation will consist of the demolition and replacement of the existing pool shell and decks, including all electrical and plumbing. We will be adding a zero depth entry, as well as water amenities, and upgrading the existing bathhouse to accommodate the new pool regulations.

The object of our pool renovation is to upgrade it to a family recreational facility, which will allow access to all residents in the community of Greene and the surrounding area. The pool is one of the main sources of entertainment and education for the children of our area during the summer months. The pool has been used for Red Cross swimming lessons, lifeguard training, adult aerobics, swim meets, scouting activities, and school swimming lessons.

The addition of the proposed amenities to the pool will not only benefit the children, but it will make the pool more family-oriented and a quality place for groups and organizations.

Contact:

Rick Ritter

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GREENE-YOUTH

Second Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Youth 1001 to 5000

Helping Hands Shape the Community

Instead of having one large project, we chose to carry out many smaller projects that would help benefit everyone in the community. Our activities ranged from hosting a Sunday Social for senior citizens to providing the youth of our town with dances and movie parties.

We also helped setup for a blood drive, made and delivered Valentines for nursing home residents, provided a live nativity scene, gave rides to the Christmas Cantanta, and set up tables and equipment for our annual town meeting.

Our main project this year was to help out with the new pool project in Greene. We feel this project brings the community together by providing summer activities. One of our other projects was to sponsor a "Dessert Social" for the local senior citizens. Anyone 65 or older was invited to come and play bingo, win prizes and have dessert with the teens.

The main goal of all our projects was to unite everyone in our community as one.

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HUBBARD

Honorable Mention Project!

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Hubbard Community Celebrations

Hubbard Squash Day Festival is an annual, day-long fall festival celebrating the Hubbard Squash and Iowa's harvesting heritage. To have our festival, we need squash. We organized a seed distribution program and sent around 425 packets. They were available in the post office, Variety Store, the bank and at three local churches.

We organized efforts to promote squash horticulture, squash cookery, local artists, organizational fundraising, story telling, antiques appraising, poetry, old-fashioned kids' games, farmer's market, and local musicians. Backyard physics were displayed with squash-a-pults, catapults designed to fling squash. The Hubbard Squash Day Festival is the only known festival flinging a non-pumpkin squash.

The Hubbard/Radcliffe Rail Trail follows the abandoned rail bed running east-west between Hubbard and Radcliff. The trail needed improvements and native prairie care. The Hubbard Community Betterment Group found people to maintain the trail in the fall.

Community Appreciation Dinner - Street Celebration and Chili Feed: Main Street was closed, fire trucks and ambulances were brought out, a band was hired, and chili and drinks were served. The event was in appreciation of the rescue workers helping after the gas explosion, and in commiseration with the citizens of New York and Washington, D.C. Local businesses sponsored the food, drinks, and the band.

Sign to Hubbard: Final designs for the sign have been approved. Funds generated from the Squash Day festival will be used for constructing the sign.

Contact:

Richard Brinkmeyer

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HUBBARD-RADCLIFFE-GARDEN CITY-YOUTH

First Place Award winner! Received Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Award.

Entry Category: Youth 1001 to 5000

Project H.E.L.P.

Helping Hands has been giving to our communities for 18 years, so many projects have become annual events. We have become so associated with them that we now think of these many things we do during the year as just one project with several parts. Even new efforts that may come up during the year, we consider as part of the bigger project.

Our 2000-2001 project consisted of 1) videotaping community and school events, 2) cleaning old railroad beds, 3) Trick or Treating to help restock local food pantries, 4) judging daylight Christmas decorations in Huber, 5) sponsoring a Christmas dance with profits designated for donations to local organizations, 6) setting up a (RR) account with money raised and donated by Cub Scouts, 7) scheduling and refereeing 5th and 6th grade basketball games, 8) finding blood donors for the Kiwanis Blood Drive, 9) holding a 3-on-3 basketball tournament as a fundraiser, 10) adding to our Medical Fund, 11) making a donation to schoolmate with cancer, 12) moving old newspapers to City Hall basement, 13) raking lawns to raise \$\$ for Red Cross efforts after 9/11, and 14) hosting CPR instruction in the High School.

Contact:

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KNOXVILLE-YOUTH

First Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Youth 5001 and over

Dedication to Beautification

"Dedication to Beautification" is a project intended to improve the natural beauty of our community. It also helps meet both the environmental and educational needs of a wide cross section of our citizenry.

Over 500 trees and shrubs were ordered and planted by club members for landowners as windbreaks on their farms. Plans were developed with advice from the District Forester and local nurseries. Trees were planted at the Bessie Spaur Butterfly Garden and the Marion Co. Historical Village. One hundred and fifty trees were planted around the Knoxville High School track complex, which involved our club raising \$10,000 and planting and caring for the trees.

The Columbia Rural Fire Department requested and received help from our club members to do a controlled burn of a native prairie restoration project being developed by a local landowner. Additionally, club members donated over 300 man hours of labor clearing brush from a Savannah Restoration site at the refuge.

The final part of our "Dedication to Beautification" project was totally unexpected. We set forth to establish a memorial for one of our club members, Chrystie Norton, who was killed in an automobile accident. Two benches and four flower planters were purchased and two new cement pads were poured on either side of the entrance to the high school. A scholarship was established in her name that allows four members of her class to receive scholarships upon graduation.

The many facets of our project ultimately involved more than 250 members of our community and approximately 50 individuals from outside Knoxville.

Contact:

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LAMONI

Entry Category: Community 1001 to 5000

Lamoni Public Library - Today's Vision...Tomorrow's Reality

Our project consisted of a community-wide effort to raise funds for a new library. A community action committee for fundraising was organized. Individuals with grant writing and fundraising experience were recruited to help.

To publicize the campaign, every communication element was utilized including: brochures; information meeting with clubs, civic groups, schools, churches, etc.; "info" notes on the city's access channel; posters, flyers, and numerous contacts promoting the library; and no less than 30 front page stories appeared in *The Lamoni Chronicle*.

We raised funds ranging from grants, to donations from the City of Lamoni, to proceeds from a soup supper, memorials, bake sales, gifts, flower sales, read-a-thon, cookbook sales, and car washes. We feel that our project epitomizes what community betterment is all about!

Contact:

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LUVERNE

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Lu Verne Community Little League Park

In the past, the Little League shared a diamond with the high school. This caused conflicts for practice time and game scheduling. We searched the area for a suitable site for a new diamond and decided on an area north of the high school.

The field had to be made to fit between evergreen trees and the running track. The sod from the little league diamond was placed on the high school infield. The north end of the track had to be shortened, and the pole that housed the transformer was moved. The new curve of the track was marked and dragged, graded, rock hauled and weed control applied.

With the help of high school students, Little League players and volunteers, cement was poured, poles were set, and the chain link fence was installed just in time for the Little League season.

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MANILLA

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Rebuilding the Baseball Field

Our city, community groups and individuals decided that it was time to tackle the task of rebuilding our baseball field. Left field had always had a "short fence" and also ran uphill making it more difficult to play.

Our project involved taking down the old fence, leveling out not only left field, but the entire outfield. We also put in a retaining wall, added rock and put up a new fence.

Numerous people were involved. The high school baseball team and coach were involved in digging out the trenches for the retaining wall. A local contractor volunteered his equipment and many hours of labor to oversee the project to completion. Two retired construction people helped with the planning and a local lumber yard donated \$1,000 worth of materials. The utility board and city council provided the majority of funds for our project.

The impact on the community will be evident this baseball season as the field now meets the criteria for our school to host district and regional baseball tournaments.

Contact:

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MANILLA-YOUTH

Third Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Youth 0 to 1000

Flower Bed in the Arboretum

The arboretum is an ongoing project for the Manilla community. It is located on the north edge of Manilla as you enter town. Many of the trees have been donated as memorials to people and numerous groups have taken on various areas as projects such as a butterfly garden and a daffodil garden. One area that had not received any attention was a drainage ditch that emptied into the area. The Sunshine Friends 4-H Club offered to tackle this project and constructed a flower garden around the drainage ditch.

Contact:

Virginia Rasmussen
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MARBLE ROCK

First Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Marble Rock Community Center

Our project consisted of rehabilitating a gymnasium that had not been used since 1990 for anything other than storage. Intent was to renovate an existing facility with historic value to fulfill community needs.

While structurally sound, the facility was badly damaged. The roof was removed and replaced with structural steel. The existing floor was removed and replaced with a new hardwood maple surface. The boiler system was replaced and the stage was refurbished and painted. Energy efficient lighting was installed, and the walls and ceiling received a fresh coat of paint. Extensive rewiring, bathroom refurbishing and a new entry wall completed the project.

The gymnasium hosts sporting events, youth acts, community meetings, a fitness center, receptions, dances, concerts, recitals, theatre, "Learning for Life" programs, etc. The Community Center constitutes a vital amenity previously lacking in our area.

Contact:

Suzy Duryee
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MASON CITY

First Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Neighborhood

North End Neighborhood Revitalization

The North End Partnership meets monthly to discuss needs, prioritize projects and encourage continued neighborhood improvements. The success of projects to date can only be attributed to the dedicated volunteers from within and outside of the neighborhood.

A cleanup weekend was held in April 2001 -- six dumpsters were filled with over 30 tons of old furniture, refuse and yard waste. Several tons of metal from major appliances and bicycles were recycled. Over 60 volunteers participated by hauling loads for neighbors unable to do so, manning the two dumpsters sites, picking up litter, and sweeping sidewalks and parking lots. Two businesses donated roll-off containers and their time to haul them to the landfill. Several businesses donated garbage bags and rubber gloves for use by the volunteers.

Contact:

Tim Latham
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MASSENA

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Massena's Barber Shop Restoration

The restoration of an old barber shop is a continuing project. The roof leaked and the brick on the exterior needed to be repaired or replaced. Three new windows and three new doors were needed. It also required a new ceiling, walls, and floor repair. The electrical, heating, and plumbing systems were not in working condition and needed to be replaced. The basement was full of debris.

This year we put on a new roof and replaced the windows and doors. New brick was put on the front of the building and the other two sides were repaired. The debris was cleared away, a new ceiling and walls were added, and the electrical system was rewired.

By restoring our old barber shop, we have certainly upgraded its appearance and added another historical building to our Heritage Park. We have plans for bringing economic growth to our town by using the grassy strip north of the barber shop. Hopefully in the summer of 2002, plans will materialize to have a farmer's market there. We think our project will help keep our community alive and save the past for future generations.

Contact:

Nancy Cullen
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MILLS, MONTGOMERY, AND PAGE COUNTIES

First Place Award winner! Received Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Award.

Entry Category: County/Coalition

DoVES: Project Restore

DoVes: "Project Restore", is the rehabilitation of a 17-room house used as temporary shelter for domestic abused women and children. Volunteers in the tri-county area adopted a room to rehabilitate. Organizations raised their own funds by holding various fundraisers: suppers, wrapping paper sales, concession stand sales, garage sales, donations and church offerings. Some wrote and were awarded grants through their own parent organizations.

Each organization determined how they could rehabilitate their own room. They gathered their own cleaning supplies, tools, paint, building materials, wallpaper, flooring, decorating materials and room furnishings. Work days were offered when the house would be open for groups to work and many volunteers spent additional hours to complete their project.

Contact:

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MILO

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Creating the Dr. Adeline L. McCormick-Ohnemus Community Center

When complete, the new community center will be Milo's showplace. It was decided that the old Clayton Hotel would serve as the hub of the new community center and would be named for the late Dr. Adeline L. McCormick-Ohnemus. The Clayton had been one of the largest and most solid buildings in Milo. The community center has enjoyed support in time, talent, and treasure from hundreds of individuals and local groups.

A large addition would be added to the main structure, with a new peaked roof sweeping back from Main Street over both. It will provide meeting space for groups in excess of 200 people. It will also will provide meeting and storage space for many local organizations. It is believed that the city clerk's office will move into the new community center.

Contact:

Alan Gardner
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MONONA*Second Place Award winner!*

Entry Category: Keep Iowa Beautiful 1001 to 5000

Monona Butterfly Trail

Our project, known as the "Monona Butterfly Trail" includes bringing together a butterfly garden, walking trail, and much needed conservation work for a drainageway on the southwest side of Monona. After the donation of several pieces of adjacent land, the project includes the re-grading of 1,000 feet of drainageway, a no-maintenance wildlife corridor along the drainageway, and a 3,100-foot trail to be used by area residents for exercise, recreation and wildlife viewing. Our goal is to have a walking trail on each side of the creek; bridges across the creek; plants, trees and shrubs that will attract butterflies; and a butterfly garden that will be planted and maintained by members of the community.

Contact:

Jim Langhus
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MORNING SUN*First Place Award winner!*

Entry Category: Keep Iowa Beautiful 0 to 1000

Sunshine Gardens

The residents were interested in utilizing a green space in the downtown area created after a building was torn down. The large corner lot was suitable for a garden or a park. The brainstorming team consisted of the Betterment Team, Morning Sun Lions and Lioness Clubs, and the Mutual Telephone Company Board of Directors.

A "Name the Green Space" contest was initiated and "Mail Us Ideas" boxes were placed in local businesses. The winner received \$25. There were sixty entries: the name "Sunshine Gardens" was selected and we began planting flower beds and placing memorial gifts: identification stone, flag pole, two trees, a gazebo and two concrete benches.

The team sold sidewalk blocks for \$100 each to build sidewalks. A weatherproof plaque will list the names of the donors of "Sunshine Gardens". Throughout the summer, three volunteers mowed the garden furnishing their own equipment and gas.

Contact:

Joan Delzell

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MURRAY-YOUTH

Second Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Youth 0 to 1000

Beautification and Restoration

As part of the overall restoration of Mallory Park, money was saved to restore the historic bandstand which had been built around 1900. When it was first built, it was in the railroad park up town and in the 1960's was moved to Mallory Park in the NW corner of town. The bandstand was in the center of Saturday night activities in the early years when farmers would bring their cream, milk, and eggs to town and visit with neighboring farmers. On Saturday nights, the volunteer town band would play in the bandstand and people would listen to their favorite songs and hymns.

This past year the bandstand was again in need of restoration. The exposure to the outdoor elements had caused rotting of the floor boards and siding. We obtained permission to move and restore the bandstand, which is exactly what we did.

Contact:

Mary Klein

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NEWELL

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Two Community Welcome Signs

We had two welcome signs designed and installed by Hwy 7, which runs through our community: one on the west side of town and one on the east side of town to identify Newell. They were installed by volunteers and city workers and were purchased through pledges received from twenty organizations and businesses.

Contact:

Melinda Buchholz

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ODEBOLT

Second Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Community 1001 to 5000

Odebolt Memorial Walk RV Park

We are in the process of creating an RV park. This area is a part of the Odebolt Memorial Walk Park. The area has been cleared and leveled. We made an entrance drive on the north side of the area from Sixth Street. In the project area, an oval drive was laid out and covered with crushed rock.

A gazebo, constructed by the local high school industrial arts class, has been placed in the center of the oval drive on a cement pad which was also constructed by the class. It matches the other

two gazebos we have on the walk. Our committee paid for the supplies. A light is mounted on the gazebo to illuminate the area.

Three new trees were planted by the fifth grade class of the public school to celebrate Arbor Day 2001,. The trees were donated by the United Bank of Iowa and Pheasants Forever of Ida County.

We raised funds for the project by selling memorial plaques that are placed on the benches, picnic tables, sidewalk squares, trash receptacles, gazebos, and stakes.

Eight electrical outlets have been installed, eventually there will be twelve. We would like water spouts and cement pads too, but will have to wait until we raise more money or get a grant.

We feel this project is one that benefits our community and visitors.

Contact:

Elaine Rex

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ODEBOLT-YOUTH

Entry Category: Youth 1001 to 5000

Youth Community Service

Our projects are the Odebolt Community Housing reroofing, the building of a gazebo for the Odebolt Memorial Walk RV park, the Odebolt community Center remodeling, and the Odebolt Ambulance garage remodeling.

The Community Housing roof was leaking and needed to be replaced. Seventeen students spent one and one-half hours each school day from September through October repairing the roof.

After 1071 volunteer hours, a new gazebo for the RV park was constructed and was moved to the park in the spring of 2001.

Many townspeople and farmers living in the surrounding area have contributed many hours to the community building project. The Industrial Arts Class started helping in Dec. 2000 and worked on it until May 2001. It is far from finished, but will be as we raise additional funds.

The ambulance garage and meeting room improvements needed were brought to the attention of the industrial arts instructor by many of the ambulance crew and EMTs. A total of 969 volunteer hours were spent by seventeen students on this project.

Students experienced the pride of volunteering for the benefit of the community.

Contact:

Elaine Rex

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PARKERSBURG

First Place Award winner! Received Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Award.

Entry Category: Community 1001 to 5000

Veteran's Memorial Building Improvements

The community project selected consisted of renovating the existing building by organizing several sub-projects that were managed by the American Legion. The overall project consisted of six sub-projects: (1) Entrance walls, ceiling and floor; (2) Restrooms, including walls, floors, dividers, mirrors, and cabinets with lavatories; (3) New kitchen wall to close the kitchen off from

the main room and a serving window; (4) Kitchen wall covering, cabinets and countertop, and new steam serving units; (5) New acoustical ceiling in the remainder of the building; and, (6) Purchase of the lot next door with removal of a garage, house and dirt leveled.

Sketches were developed, reviewed, and approved and work began in December of 2000. These projects were funded entirely by donations and volunteer help except when a licensed professional was required. The public was very supportive of the planned work and work in progress.

The building is used by many different organizations, individuals, and families from many surrounding communities. The Parkersburg community wanted the work to be completed professionally. We utilized the local talent very effectively by inviting individuals with the needed skills to join in our effort. We will continue to improve the building in the coming year by installing new vinyl flooring. Funds have already been raised to allow us to begin this new phase.

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RANDALL

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Randall Entryway Park/Randall Gardens

The community Entryway Welcome Garden sits on the main street that runs through Randall. The project consisted of designing, planting and maintaining Chinese lilacs, Donald Wyman white and Profusion white flowering crabs, Snowball hydrangeas, and fragrant roses. We plan to continue adding additional flowers in the future.

Donations were received to match our Trees Forever funds. We had one business furnish a truck to deliver the plants, another donated the mulch, bricks were donated and a skid loader was donated to unload the trees and transport to the planting site.

Everyone was involved. Volunteers ranged from senior citizens, youth, two local master gardeners, to members from the Trees Forever Committee. We even handed curious passers-by a shovel!

Contact:

Linda Wild

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RICHLAND

Received Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Award.

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

A Playground for Ashley

When RAGBRAI came through town in July 2000, our committee distributed a community survey asking people where they would like the proceeds from RAGBRAI to go. The top choice was that it be used to purchase new playground equipment for the kids. There was also a desire to create a memorial for Ashley, a six year-old girl killed in a house explosion here in Richland on Labor Day in 1999. Playground equipment seemed like a fitting memorial.

Our community built a new playground structure for children and restored pieces of equipment that were already in place. We added benches and adult park swings, so that parents and grandparents had a place where they could sit and watch their children play. Our goal was to create an area that could be used by people of all ages. We sold raffle tickets and took orders for cookbooks. The End Zone donated use of their building along with other organizations for a craft show. Businesses donated funds for T-shirts and participants made donations to run and walk on our 1 mile and 5K Memorial Road Race.

Contact:

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RODNEY

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Shelter Area Renovation and Installation

The Shelter Area Renovation project consisted of painting the original open shelter house, placing an existing picnic table in the sheltered area and anchoring it to the cement. Two planters were purchased and filled with flowers. The original park sign was remounted near the shelter area and the BBQ grill was moved.

In July 2000, we held an auction fundraiser. Local and area businesses donated items for our use. The auctioneer volunteered his time and services. The paint and planters were purchased with the proceeds. This project required mostly free labor, we had a lot of that!

Contact:

Dwain Schmidt

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RUSSELL

Third Place Award winner!

Entry Category: Keep Iowa Beautiful 0 to 1000

Serenity Grove

The residents of our small town have always displayed pride in the care of the Russell cemetery. The idea for this project sprang forth while we were reviewing a tree planting project that we completed last year. A life-long resident of Russell mentioned a need to improve the view west of the cemetery. The idea was discussed with local groups and organizations of our rural community. Due to the success we had from our previous project the responses were positive. We were ready to get to work again!

There was a plot of city property adjacent to the Russell cemetery. Along the North/South boundary between the two areas was a fence. The city land had been used as an area for burning tree limbs and yard debris. Our project involved clearing dead brush and trees from the fence line on the city property and replanting a long row of trees. This will enhance the view from both sides of the fence and will also serve as a bird shelter. The remaining land was cleared for mowing. Landscaping and planting the fence line next to the heavily traveled gravel road was completed. The Blue Grass road is a part of the Historic Mormon Trail. The burning area will be designated further south on the city property - not as visible from the cemetery or road.

Local people are employed to tend the grounds. The American Legion and Auxiliary have erected an Avenue of Flags in honor of the Veterans and our loved ones.

Contact:

Eileen Wright

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SCHLESWIG

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Stockyards Renovation

Schleswig, Iowa is an agricultural, German-based community located in Western Iowa. The Schleswig Calf Club is exclusively made up of children with parental guidance. The members show 5 head of market cattle during the annual celebration, following the event an auction is held to sell these cattle.

The club wanted to construct a facility that would accomplish two goals. 1) It needed to be sturdy enough to efficiently work with calves without having to worry about constant maintenance and repairs. 2) Once finished, the stockyards area would again be an acceptable looking addition to our fine community for years to come.

One-hundred and twenty-eight tons of dirt was hauled in and the area was shaped to allow for proper water drainage. An outside perimeter fence and a load-in/load-out facility was added. Several members volunteered numerous hours and donated material, supplies and equipment, remodeled the championship pen area, sale ring auctioneer's stand and exterior lighting. The total cost of this project, excluding the donated material, supplies, equipment and man-hours was \$23,941 dollars.

In order to fund this project, the club salvaged gates, posts and panels from the old stockyards and sold these items to local farmers. In addition, lifetime sponsorships were obtained from local businesses and individuals.

Local support has been tremendous and the comments received from Schleswig and surrounding communities are quite rewarding.

Contact:

Todd Schultz
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SHELBY COUNTY

Honorable Mention Project!

Entry Category: County/Coalition

Shelby County Day of Unity

Our Sun., Nov. 4th "Day of Unity" brought together more than 500 citizens from all over Shelby County and surrounding counties for an afternoon of prayer, patriotism and hope. The two hour program featured insight regarding the 9/11 attacks and the U.S. response. Speakers included former Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, Omaha Islamic Mosque President Ahmed Ghosheh and State Senator Nancy Boettger.

More than 20 agencies were saluted for their efforts to protect and serve the public and were all invited to participate in a candle-lit parade of heroes, and a moving video combined pictures and music in tribute to them. Patriotic music was presented by area youth and a specially formed Shelby Co. choir, winners of a local essay contest presented their meanings of patriotism and current and veteran military personnel in attendance were recognized for their sacrifices.

Our local Red Cross Chapter also updated the audience on the Shelby Co. response to the attacks, noting nearly \$30,000 in financial aid forwarded to New York and Washington, D.C.

Contact:

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SIoux CENTER*Honorable Mention Project!*

Entry Category: Community 5001 and over

All Seasons Center Fund Drive

Area senior citizens had talked for some time of wanting a senior center where they could socialize, play games and have meetings. The Dordt College Blades hockey team had never had a "home" for practices and games. The college introduced the concept of an all-purpose arena, which could be used for hockey and recreational ice skating during the winter and for events such as indoor soccer, trade shows, concerts, etc. during the remainder of the year.

What seemed like an impossible dream started taking shape when city leaders learned of a newly introduced Vision Iowa Program. The money available through the grant, along with a commitment from residents to approve an increase in local taxes encouraged council members to move ahead with the planning for the All Seasons Center.

One of the most exciting aspects of the project is the community cooperation that has gone into making it a success. By the time the planning, publicity and fundraising efforts were complete - nearly 500 people had volunteered their time. From committee meetings to phone-a-thons . . . people gave generously of their time and talents.

Contact:

Brenda O'Brien

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STRATFORD*Second Place Award winner!*

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Enrichment Center of Athens Woods Estates

The Enrichment Center of Athens Woods Estates, Inc. (AWE) is currently valued at \$300,000.

Since AWE formally opened its doors in January 2001 as a beautifully constructed Senior Housing Development with all its amenities, AWE has emerged as a tremendous community asset. The center contains a community room, kitchen, two libraries, a chapel, seminar room, fitness center and a guest room and has been used for countless social and community events.

Now our communities can proudly offer the use of the AWE Enrichment Center free of charge to any citizen of the Stratford/Stanhope area for concerts, family and class reunions, memorial services, local civic and club meetings, educational seminars, and on-site health clinics.

As we reflect on the Iowa Community Betterment Project entry we are submitting, without a doubt the AWE Enrichment Center has certainly made the communities of Stratford and Stanhope a better place to live and work!

Contact:

Jean Bjustrom

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STRAWBERRY POINT*Honorable Mention Project!*

Entry Category: Community 1001 to 5000

Strawberry Point Library Relocation Project

In 1998, the public library in Strawberry Point was bursting at the seams. The library collection of over 20,000 books, periodicals, videos, recordings, and computer work stations crowded the less than 1700 square feet of the main floor of City Hall. Physically handicapped people could not select their own reading or study materials because the aisles between the shelves were too narrow.

Our community started a fundraising campaign to renovate the east wing of the Strawberry Point Civic Center for the library. Ten volunteers spent 12 hours assembling apple pies for a fundraiser to benefit the library. Volunteers loaded and moved shelving, carpenters donated 45 hours of their time installing the shelves. Local businesses donated materials for the sidewalk, a grant was received for the purchase of trees for the landscaping, and in honor of their mother, the Putzier family donated \$32,000 for the genealogy room.

In March 2001, we moved into the 9,088 square feet location. Patrons now use the library facilities for study and research as well as to read for pleasure.

Contact:

Lois Cordes

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SWEDESBURG

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Community Welcome Sign

The citizens of Swedesburg planned and constructed a community welcome sign, which is located on land generously donated by a local farm family.

The sign has a background representing the Swedish flag and also features a listing of services and points of interest in the community. A 35-foot pole or "maistong", a traditional designation of communities in Sweden, was fabricated with a nautical crosspiece and symbols including a heart, wreaths, and a triangle. Banners were attached at the top and to the wreaths. Bushes and flowers were planted along the base. Lights were installed to illuminate both the sign and the post at night.

Our welcome site now stands completed and has been very successful in alerting travelers to our community and guiding them to its businesses and attractions.

Contact:

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WALNUT*Received Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Award.*

Entry Category: Community 0 to 1000

Gateway to the Future Project

The intent of the Gateway to the Future project was to enhance Walnut as a gateway location to the Nishnabotna Loop by having old-time murals applied to entryway buildings. The goal of the project was to enhance and compliment the ambiance that already exists in Walnut, "Iowa's Antique City."

The murals were painted by twenty-seven members of the "MidCoast Letterheads, " a group of sign and mural painters from all over the United States. They convened in Walnut for this event in May 2001. The common goal of the murals was to create the antique look of a century ago. The weekend event was filled with festivities and creativity, and the art-in-progress was enjoyed by the citizens of Walnut, as well as the many visitors who traveled to the community to watch the artists work.

It was the intent of the artists to convey, through pictures and a walking tour brochure, the bond between agriculture and rural America and how this bond evolved into a special way of life for those who live in America's Heartland.

Over the four-day event, the community banded together to plan, prepare, and serve meals to the artists. Much of the food was donated by area grocery stores. Coca-Cola donated a Coke trailer and Coca-Cola for the artists. A well attended community dinner was served on Saturday night, and the meal was followed by an auction of the artists' renderings of the murals. The residents of the community agree that this is an event to remember. It was a true collaboration of the townspeople and the artists, which resulted in a mural project that will help to keep history alive for future generations to enjoy.

Contact:

Terri Abel

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WATERLOO

Second Place Award winner!
Entry Category: Neighborhood

The Lou Henry Hoover Memorial Inauguration

Our neighborhood association is working with many leaders in our community to develop an interactive memorial to Lou Henry Hoover. The groundwork has been laid and progress is being made toward a completion date of March 1, 2003. Mrs. Hoover's birthday was March 29, we hope to have a big celebration to commemorate the birthday and the dedication of the statue. This memorial will be an extension of the Grout Museum. Residents and visitors will become aware of who Lou Henry Hoover was and her accomplishments.

Contact:

Mary Potter

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WATERLOO

Third Place Award winner!
Entry Category: Neighborhood

Grant/Unity Summer Program

This project was a summer program for neighborhood boys between the ages of five and twelve. The objectives of the program were to promote community awareness, mutual respect, self esteem, sportsmanship, drug awareness, crime prevention, and to provide a safe, structured environment for educational and physical activities.

The program averaged between 30 and 35 boys per day, with a total enrollment of 55 boys. The program had weekly themes, combined with life skills lessons. The weekly themes used were safety, community awareness, animals, careers, environment, and sports. The life skills taught were friendship, choices, responsibility, cooperation, curiosity, consequences, effort, self-confidence, care, commitment, patience, and problem solving. Field trips and activities reflected the week's themes and life skills lessons.

Contact:

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